

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~compound constructed by N (N is an integer of 2 or more) kinds of phases containing~~ composition comprising an inorganic compound continuous phase and a discontinuous phase, and comprising at least one kind of element selected from a the group consisting of Co, Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Ni, Si, ~~Pb, and~~ Bi and Al, wherein ~~at least one kind (N-1) to kinds among said N kinds of phases are continuous phases, and the other phases are discontinuous phases.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~compound~~ The composition according to Claim 1, wherein a refractive index of the ~~compound~~ composition changes in accordance with an incident light when the incident light in accordance with $n = n_0 + n_2 I$ enters, and assuming that wherein n is an absolute value of an observed refractive index, n_0 is the refractive index is n_0 at a time when no incident light enters and an has entered, I is the intensity of the incident light is I, and an absolute value n of the refractive index to be observed is represented by $n = n_0 + n_2 I$, a value of n_2 lies in a range of from greater than 1.0×10^{-9} (~~m^2/W~~) (m^2/W) to less than 1.0×10^{-7} m^2/W .

3. (Currently Amended) A ~~compound~~ The composition according to Claim 2, wherein the refractive index changes in a range of greater than 2.50×10^{-7} seconds to less than 3.50×10^{-7} seconds after the incident light enters, and the refractive index returns to an originally set refractive index within a time interval in a range of greater than 2.5×10^{-7} to less than 1.0×10^{-2} after eliminating the incident light.

4. (Currently Amended) A ~~compound~~ The composition according to Claim 1, further wherein the composition comprises a mixture of oxides comprising an oxide containing a Co oxide of 60 to 95 weight % as converted into an oxide of CoO and at least one kind of oxide comprising an element selected from a the group consisting of Si, Ti, Al, ~~Pb~~ and Bi ~~as a remaining part.~~

5. (New) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the composition comprises a plurality of discontinuous phases.
6. (New) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the inorganic compound continuous phase comprises an oxide.
7. (New) The composition according to Claim 6, wherein the oxide comprises at least one compound selected from the group consisting of SiO_2 , TiO_2 and Al_2O_3 .
8. (New) The composition according to Claim 7, wherein the discontinuous phase comprises CoO .
9. (New) The composition according to Claim 6, wherein the discontinuous phase comprises CoO .
10. (New) The composition according to Claim 1, wherein the inorganic compound continuous phase comprises a glass.
11. (New) The composition according to Claim 10, wherein the discontinuous phase comprises CoO .